

Pesticide Discussion Forum Summary Digest

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

Chemicals are a part of everyday life. People of all ages, cultures and social conditions are exposed to chemical substances, mixtures, commercial chemical products (e.g. detergents, cosmetics, pesticides) and various chemical-containing articles (electronics, textiles, toys etc.) on a daily basis. Some chemicals, throughout their lifecycle (production, transport, storage, use, disposal), have intrinsic properties that make them hazardous to human health and the environment. To face this danger, and considering the extensive global trade in chemicals, an internationally, harmonized approach to classify and label chemical substances and mixtures has been developed at the global level. The "**Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)**", provides classification criteria for substances and mixtures by the nature (hazard class) and severity (hazard category) of the hazard as well as harmonized hazard communication elements, including package labels and safety data sheets.

About the Presenter



Lennart Dock holds a Ph.D. in toxicology from the Karolinska Institute and joined the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI) in 2002. He is currently a senior advisor at the International Unit of the Swedish Chemicals Agency. He is Head of the Swedish delegation at the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS and served as adviser to the Swedish Government during the EU council negotiations on the regulation implementing GHS in the EU legal system (the CLP Regulation). To get in touch with Lennart, you can email him at: Lennart.Dock@kemi.se

1. What is the current process for classifying and labelling pesticides in your country or a country you work in?

Zambia: The GHS classification system is used (in the implementation stage) in conjunction with the WHO/FAO criteria on hazard classification. Pesticides labels have to be approved by the Zambia Environmental Management Agency, 2011 before it is allowed on the market.

Uganda: The GHS is used in addition to the WHO-2009. Registration and classification of pesticides is guided by the GHS system. The less hazardous pesticides are maintained in the chemical register and allowed for renewal or registration processes.

India: The Rule 19 of the Insecticide rules 1971 guides the classification of pesticides and labelling in India.

Eswatini: The Chemicals Management and Control Bill defines the process of labelling pesticides in the country. (which has a component on classifying and labelling of chemicals, which is GHS).

Togo: In Togo, we do not have official process for classifying and labelling pesticides. As Togo is a

member of CILSS, I assume we adhere to its process of classification and labelling.

Belize: The Pesticides Control Board of Belize has its own Pesticides Labelling Regulations based on the 2004 WHO labelling system.

Gambia: Gambia has adopted The GHS but its implementation is very weak.

Zimbabwe: Pesticide classification is based on hazard class (as the GHS classification procedure).

South Africa: SA Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries or regulator are currently changing to the GHS system.

Tanzania: Pesticides are classified and labelled based on hazard, which adopted from WHO recommended classification of pesticides.

Senegal: The CILSS common regulation for pesticide registration is applicable to the classification, labelling, and packaging of pesticide formulations.

2. Has your country or countries you work in adopted GHS as legislation in any sector? Please provide details

Country	GSH adoption status: Yes / No / Partially	Explanation
Zimbabwe	Partially	Gradual adoption of the same labelling system and slowly classification of pesticides is being harmonized with the GHS system.
Belize	No	The Pesticide Control Board of Belize regulates pesticides. The Belize Agricultural Health Authority regulates fertilizers, veterinary drugs and pesticides. The Department of Environment regulates all other biocides.
Zambia	Yes	There is also a National GHS standard under the Zambia Bureau of Standards as ZS 708- GHS and it is adopted through the Environmental

		Management Act No. 12 of 2011. All pesticides imported in the country should confirm to the GHS classification and labelling.
Uganda	Yes	Yes, in Uganda in addition to WHO-2009 we also accept GHS Labelling. Registration and classification of pesticides are guided by the GHS system. The standard GHS labels are adopted on product labels.
Eswatini	No	The Environment sector is developing the Chemicals Management Bill, which adopts GHS as a mandatory standard when enacted.
India	No	India has not officially adopted the GHS of classification on chemicals for management of chemicals.
Tanzania	No	All sectors to date are using other classification schemes without being stipulated in the respective legislations.
South Africa	Yes	Adopted by the Regulator in SA with regards to labelling of pesticides that are registered in SA and are being rolled out currently. DEA are in the process of adopting GHS into their pesticide and SHEQ policies.
Senegal	Yes	It is adopted in the Environmental Code as part of the management of chemicals considering the transport and storage that are not included the CILSS common regulations.
Gambia	Yes	The use of GHS classification is included in the current Hazardous Chemical and Pesticides control and management Bill 2019.
Togo	No	Togo in a UNITAR-funded study in 2015 made a national situation / gap analysis for the implementation of the GHS but it is not included in any legislation at the moment.

3. Does your country or a country you work in have a list of chemicals (particularly pesticides) classified based on hazard? If so, are the classifications legally binding?

Zambia: Zambia does not yet have a list of pesticides classification but uses the WHO/FAO criteria for reference.

Uganda: Yes, especially for imported chemical products. Pesticides that are highly hazardous are neither permitted for registration nor renewal in the country.

India: Yes. This classification is based on rule 19 of the insecticide rules 1971 and is thus legally binding.

Eswatini: No, Eswatini does not yet have such a system.

Togo: No, Togo does not have a list of chemicals (especially pesticides) based on hazard.

Belize: Restricted use pesticides in Belize are legally binding under Statutory Instrument 91/1992 of the Pesticides Control Act (Chapter 181B of the Laws of Belize).

Zimbabwe: Yes, pesticides are classified according to hazard in Zimbabwe and this classification is legally binding.

South Africa: Yes. In SA, the classifications are legally binding.

Tanzania: Yes, Tanzania classify pesticides based on hazard and the classification is legally binding.

Senegal: Yes, the Sahalian Committee for Pesticides (SCP) authorized list of pesticides at the CLSS level is based on the WHO Hazard Classification.

Resources and Further Reading

- Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) Seventh revised edition Legislation Available at: https://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_rev07/07files_e.html
- CLP Legislation Available at: <https://echa.europa.eu/regulations/clp/legislation>
- The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard. Available at: https://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/pesticides_hazard/en/
- C&L Inventory. What is the Classification and Labelling Inventory? Available at: <https://echa.europa.eu/regulations/clp/cl-inventory>

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The **Division of Environmental Health (DEH)** Pesticide Discussion Forum is a bi-monthly online seminar for pesticide regulators and resource persons, as well as students in the Post-Graduate Diploma in Pesticide Risk Management (DPRM). Our aim is to provide support for managing pesticide risks and implementing risk reduction strategies. DEH is based in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine at the University of Cape Town (UCT).

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